

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00

OMB-01 /107 W

----- 012034

R 220739Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5798

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BRISBANE BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE BY POUCH

AMCONSUL PERTH BY POUCH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 3267

SYDNEY ALSO PASS TRADE CENTER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, OECD, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN TRADE RESTRICTIONS

REF: (A) CANBERRA 3022;

(B) CANBERRA 2597 (NOTAL);

(C) STATE 096416 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB TOOK OPPORTUNITY
PRESENTED BY PRIMIN LUNCH FOR HABIB MAY 22 TO REGISTER U.S.
CONCERN OVER AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS WITH WHITLAM.
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING LUNCH, MATTER RAISED BY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY HABIB WITH MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS TRADE CREAN IN COURSE
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OF COURTESY CALL ON LATTER.

2. PRIMIN SYMPATHETIC AND RESPONSIVE IN COURSE HALF HOUR DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT. HE EMPHASIZED PERSONAL ATTACHMENT TO LIBERALIZED TRADE POLICIES AND TEMPORARY NATURE OF RECENT AUSTRALIAN RESTRICTIVE ACTIONS. HE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED HABIB TO RAISE SAME SUBJECT, AS WE HAD ALREADY PLANNED, DURING COURSE OF CALL ON CREAN.

3. CREAN, WHO IS ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH PREVIOUS U.S. REPRESENTATIONS, ECHOED PRIMIN'S ASSURANCES THESE ACTIONS TEMPORARY AND HIS HOPES THAT IMPROVING ECONOMIC SITUATION WOULD PERMIT AUSTRALIA TO RETURN TO MORE LIBERAL POLICIES. WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS OR INDIVIDUAL CASES, HE ASSURED HABIB AUSTRALIA SUPPORTED LIBERAL TRADE POLICY FOR LONG RUN.

4. PRINCIPAL TOPIC DURING BALANCE OF CALL ON CREAN WAS AUSTRALIAN VIEW ON COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS. CREAN EXPLAINED WELL KNOWN AUSTRALIAN REASONS FOR FAVORING ARRANGEMENTS ON MAJOR COMMODITIES, AND GENERAL DISPOSITION TO SEEK LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS FOR SALES OF AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTS, IN RETURN FOR OFFERING ASSURED SUPPLIES. HABIB REVIEWED U.S. POSITION INCLUDING WILLINGNESS TO LOOK AT INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY SITUATIONS ON THEIR MERITS WHILE OPPOSING GENERAL MOVE TO PUT LARGE NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES UNDER SUCH AGREEMENTS.

5. DISCUSSION CONCLUDED WITH CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON U.S. BEEF IMPORT SITUATION, NOTING RECENT UPWARD PRICE TREND IN U.S. MARKET.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS U.S. CONCERN ON WHITLAM PERSONALLY WAS EXTREMELY VALUABLE. WHILE HE HAS BEEN FORCED BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO ACQUIESCE IN THE RECENT SERIES OF RESTRICTIVE ACTIONS, WHITLAM IS WELL KNOWN TO HAVE STRONG PERSONAL VIEWS IN FAVOR OF LIBERAL TRADE AND EVENTUAL RESTRUCTURING OF THE AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY IN A MORE COMPETITIVE PATTERN. THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE HIM PERSONALLY AWARE OF THE U.S. CONCERN AND SOME OF THE DETAILED REASONS FOR THIS CONCERN WILL HOPEFULLY ENCOURAGE HIM TO ACQUIESCE LESS READILY IN CABINET DECISIONS TO ADOPT NEW RESTRICTIVE ACTIONS IN COMING MONTHS.

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